

[“Greenie”]

Beliefs & [?] - Folk Stuff

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview 10

STATE N.Y.

NAME OF WORKER Bishop Hathaway

ADDRESS 356 West 123d Street, N.Y.C.

DATE December 21, 1938

SUBJECT Folk Lore - “GREENIE”

1. Date and time of interview December 20, 1938
2. Place of interview Union Square
3. Name and address of informant “Greenie”, one Green. Lower East Side
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Same as in Jacob Stein.

Library of Congress

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM [B?] Personal History of Informant

STATE N.Y.

NAME OF WORKER B. Hathaway

ADDRESS 356 West 123d Street, N.Y.C.

DATE December 21, 1938

SUBJECT Folk Lore - "GREENIE"

1. Ancestry Russo-Jewish
2. Place and date of birth New York, nearly forty years ago.
3. Family
4. Places lived in, with dates
5. Education, with dates Not farther than grammar school grade, as a kid.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates
7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant In the late Thirties, long-nosed, pot-bellied. Atheistic, humorous, a "kibitzer" on any subject that may arise, in a place where sooner or later

Library of Congress

everything does arise. Called also "Union Square's Kidder Number One." A home reliefer, or works reliefer, reasonably secure — for the moment anyway — apparently satisfied.

10. Other Points gained in interview

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER B. Hathaway

ADDRESS 356 West 123d Street, N.Y.C.

DATE December 21, 1938

SUBJECT Folk Lore

His foil, a little [high church?] English clergyman, who has some kind of work among the derelicts on the Bowery — small, thin, with a noticable accent, slow, deliberate, very earnest, without a sense of humor. 1 caps

Causally the minister — gaunt-faced, perpetual pipe in mouth, well along in years — had mentioned something about the Transfiguration of Christ.....

It was enough for "Greenie."

His long nose sticking out in front of him, with nasal twang and a straight face, on an undertone of ridicule, "Greenie" drivelled along, to the amused titter of the atheistic, scoffing audience that draped the park railing—

GREENIE AND THE MINISTER

.....Christ told a man to put his hand in His side. Thomas. That was the man's name. Doubting Thomas (as if he had same doubt about it himself).....

2

When Christ said it was really Him and that He had come back from the grave and was goin' to stay a while. Thomas wouldn't believe Him. He wanted to feel Him. So Christ said; all right .. Here, put yer hand in here. And He unbuttoned His tunic, or whatever He wore. Feel Me, Christ told him. See if I ain't real.

So Thomas put his hand in an' found He was real.

Yo' got me, said Thomas. 'Y juckers, You win. Yer real all right. I gotta believe it

After that Christ went all around showin' people that He had come back from the grave. An' it was only Thomas that ever doubted it.

So Christ stuck around a while before goin' up. He waited till everybody had seen Him an' then He went up in the sky. 'Twas in all the afternoon papers:

Four O'clock! Grand Final Ascension! Everybody Out!

All Jerusalem turned out. It was a holiday in all the Christian shops. Saint Peter was there. With the ear he had cut off man with his sword three or four days before. He was carryin' it around with him, showin' everybody.....

An' when He went up that time, He never came down any more. That was the last time anybody ever seen Christ. It was the Transfig'ration.